

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

YOKOO et al

Atty. Ref.: 159-69

Serial No. UNKNOWN

Group:

Filed: December 19, 2001

Examiner:

For: MILK-ADDES COFFEE BEVERAGE

* * * * *

December 19, 2001

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

In order to place the above-identified application in better condition for examination, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following amended claims for corresponding claims previously presented. A copy of the amended claims showing current revisions is attached.

3. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, wherein addition of the strongly basic substance and/or basic amino acid prevents precipitation after the heat sterilization.
4. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, wherein addition of the strongly basic substance and/or basic amino acid reduces the amount of emulsifier and/or thickening agent required.
5. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, wherein the pH of the milk-added coffee beverage product is 5.8-7.0.
7. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, wherein the strongly basic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, trisodium phosphate and tripotassium phosphate.
9. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, wherein the basic amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of lysine, arginine and histidine.
11. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, wherein the amount of sodium bicarbonate added is no greater than 0.14 wt%.

12. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, which contains coffee component at 0.1-10 wt% in terms of solid portion.

13. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, which contains milk component at 0.1-10 wt% in terms of solid portion.

14. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, characterized in that the milk component is cow milk.

15. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1, characterized by containing substantially no sweet components or being only lightly sweetened.

16. A process for producing a milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1.

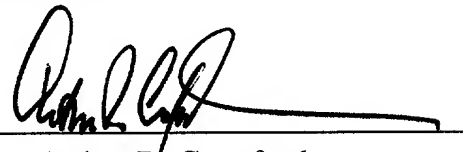
REMARKS

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page(s) is captioned "**Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.**"

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS

3. A milk-added coffee beverage according to claim 1 ~~or~~ 2, wherein addition of the strongly basic substance and/or basic amino acid prevents precipitation after the heat sterilization.
4. A milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 3, wherein addition of the strongly basic substance and/or basic amino acid reduces the amount of emulsifier and/or thickening agent required.
5. A milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 4, wherein the pH of the milk-added coffee beverage product is 5.8-7.0.
7. A milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 6, wherein the strongly basic substance is at least one selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, trisodium phosphate and tripotassium phosphate.
9. A milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to~~ 8, wherein the basic amino acid is at least one selected from the group consisting of lysine, arginine and histidine.

11. A milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~, wherein the amount of sodium bicarbonate added is no greater than 0.14 wt%.

12. A milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~, which contains coffee component at 0.1-10 wt% in terms of solid portion.

13. A milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~, which contains milk component at 0.1-10 wt% in terms of solid portion.

14. A milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~, characterized in that the milk component is cow milk.

15. A milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 14~~, characterized by containing substantially no sweet components or being only lightly sweetened.

16. A process for producing a milk-added coffee beverage according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 15~~.